



File Code: 1950

Date: November 27, 2012

**Notice for 30-day Comment Period
Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression and Prevention Project**

Dear Interested Parties:

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) is initiating an environmental analysis process for the proposed Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Suppression and Prevention Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The project area is located on the Hector Ranger District of the Finger Lakes National Forest in the Town of Lodi in Seneca County, New York (see attached maps in project description).

The proposed action is to authorize chemical application of 300 hemlock trees within a 134 acre area of Caywood Point. The objective for this project is to address the current and future predicted HWA induced mortality on the eastern hemlock at Caywood Point and to help limit the further spread of HWA into the Forest. These trees serve as a fundamental characteristic to the visual quality of the Caywood point recreation and special area. Post treatment survey data would be shared with the Forest Health Protection community and would add to research on HWA treatments.

A recent court ruling (*Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell*, 11-cv-00679-LJO-DLB (E.D. Cal.)) requires that actions that can be categorically excluded from an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement using categories found at 36 CFR 220.6(e) be subject to public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal. Although not required for the cited categories for this proposed action (7 CFR 1b.3(a)(3) and 36 CFR 220.6(d)(5)), I have decided to prepare a Decision Memo for this environmental analysis. For this reason, the court order will apply to this project.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Comments will be accepted for a 30-day period following publication of the Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression and Prevention Project legal notice in the *Ithaca Journal*, our newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Do not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period (36 CFR 215.6).

Postal, hand-delivered, oral, electronic and facsimile (FAX) comments on the proposal will be accepted. Postal comments must be submitted to me in, c/o Will Brendecke, Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector Ranger District Office, 5218 State Rte. 414, Hector, New York, 14841. Hand-delivered comments must be submitted to Hector Ranger District office, 5218 State Rte. 414, Hector, New York. Oral comments may be submitted by phone to (607) 546-4470 ext. 311, or in person at the Hector Ranger District Office. The office hours for those submitting oral or hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments may also be submitted to me by FAX to (607) 546-4474, ATTN: Will Brendecke, Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression and Prevention Project.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf), to [comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-](#)



lakes-finger-lakes@fs.fed.us. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Comments received in response to this invitation, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review. Your comments can help me make a better informed decision regarding the proposed project. In your comments, please include the following information:

1. Your name, address and telephone number or email address.
2. The project you are commenting on: Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression and Prevention Project
3. Site specific comments about the proposal along with supporting information and rationale you believe will help identify issues.
4. Concerns about environmental effects associated with the proposal.

Appeal Eligibility

A person has standing to file an appeal only if they submit comments during this 30-day comment period. A Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Directions on how to submit appeals will be part of the decision associated with this project.

Additional information regarding this proposal can be obtained from: Jodie Vanselow, District Ranger (Address: USDA Forest Service, Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector Ranger District, 5218 State Route 414., Hector, NY 14841; Voice/TTY: (607) 546-4470, ext. 311; Fax: (607) 546-4474; e-mail: jvanselow@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for your interest in the Finger Lakes National Forest.

/s/ Jodie L. Vanselow

Jodie Vanselow
District Ranger
Hector Ranger District- Finger Lakes National Forest

Enclosures: Project information (includes maps and chemical information)